

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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Eastern Illinois University

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BACK ON CAMPUS

Eastern students share their thoughts about being on campus after many others remain home.

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OVC UPDATE

Take a look at the OVC as 10 of the conference's 12 teams have started their seasons.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 105 | NO. 64

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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Limited number of students return to campus

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

Around 1,000 students said they would return to campus after Thanksgiving Break in a university survey with a 73 percent response rate, cutting the number of students in Eastern's on-campus housing in half.

Due to the decrease in on-campus populations with classes moving online for the remainder of the Fall 2020 semester, changes have been made around campus.

As some student workers did not return to campus Taylor Dining Center is closed for the remainder of the semester with those who work there being moved to Thomas Dining Center.

Thomas Dining Center will be open Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 10 a.m., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and Late Night Pizza will be available Monday through Thursday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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Sing a song



ZACH BERGER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Christina Peter, a voice performance grad student, sings in Dounda Hall practice room Monday evening. Peter said she was practicing her friend's recital, a piece that her friend has composed, and practiced for piano finals.

COVID tests available on campus Wednesday

By Kyara Morales-Rodriguez
Campus Reporter | @DEN_news

On Wednesday, Dec. 2 and Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern will be providing students, faculty, staff, annuitants and members of the community another opportunity to get free COVID testing. This free COVID testing is being brought in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Individuals are encouraged to pre-register for the date in which they are getting tested using the website My Chart. The link to the website and information on how to pre-register are on Eastern's EIU COVID-19 webpage. Registering for My Chart will help people getting tested receive their results faster.

For both dates, the COVID testing site will take place at the South Entrance of the Lantz Fieldhouse. Both drive-through and walk-up options will be available.

Walk-up testing will be provided inside the Lantz Fieldhouse. Eastern states that attendees must enter at the south end of the Fieldhouse, which is located near the tennis courts and Campus Pond. Walk-up lines will be socially distanced around lanes 2 and 6 of the indoor track.

Drive-thru testing will be conducted outside the south end of the Fieldhouse, near the entrance door for walk-up testing. Eastern states cars must enter the J Lot off Grant Avenue, follow the queue directions.

Eastern asks attendees to wear a mask, since Eastern's masking policy states all individuals must ap-

propriately wear a clean cloth or disposable face mask while on campus. Additional masks will not be provided, so attendees must bring masks.

Apart from a mask, Eastern also asks attendees to bring a photo ID, an ink pen, their local (or school) address to provide to the testing staff, their insurance card (if they have one), and a smartphone to register for My Chart if they did not pre-register prior to the COVID testing date.

The kind of COVID testing Eastern is offering is called an "Anterior Nares Swab." As Eastern explains, the specimen is collected by inserting a foam swab a small distance into each nostril. The swab is rotated and kept in place for approximately 15 seconds in each nostril.

After getting tested, students or employees who are traveling away from Charleston are encouraged to make all personal and academic materials that would be needed to isolate or quarantine in that location.

Students experiencing COVID symptoms are encouraged to call Eastern's Medical Clinic at 217-581-3013 to schedule an appointment. Symptomatic students may be tested for COVID at the Medical Clinic for \$25.

There are other local testing opportunities available for people unable to attend the two COVID testing dates, including testing options available at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.edu.

City Council to vote on tax levy in Tuesday meeting

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The Charleston City Council will vote on the \$5,015,375 annual tax levy during its meeting Tuesday.

The police (\$1,678,361) and fire (\$1,628,533 and \$85,712) pensions were the largest amounts levied.

Other budget items amounts were levied for include:

- Library bonds and interest - \$587,638
- Insurance and tort judgment - \$430,606
- Library - \$410,000
- Playground and recreation - \$185,525

Seven thousand dollars was levied in various parts of the general fund.

Budget items that did not have an amount levied for them included streetlights, school crossing guards, water tax, sewage tax and unemployment.

The council will also vote on obligating \$65,000 of motor fuel tax funds for resurfacing University Drive from Lincoln Avenue to Hayes Avenue; Monroe Avenue from Division Street to Fourth Street; and North Fourteenth Street from Olive Avenue to the north city limits.

For the same project the council will vote on authorizing the execution of a local agency agreement for federal participation.

The city is in need of pavement preservation for the project and would like to enter the agreement to use funds from the Federal Secondary Transportation Urban funds that are available from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The council will also vote on a contractual agreement for technical assistance services.

The services provided may include: planning (transportation, community, infrastructure, economic), zoning/subdivision assistance, ordinance codification, ordinance drafting, purchasing/joint purchasing, village/village management assistance, user charges studies, water rate studies, budgeting assistance, appropriation ordinance assistance, tax levy ordinance assistance, motor fuel tax administration, personnel studies, training/workshops, map preparation/graphics, census assistance and intergovernmental communications assistance.

The mayor will announce his appointment of Angelique Elser to a three year term on the Carnegie Library Board of Trustees.

Two raffle licenses will also be voted on.

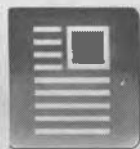
The continuation of the local state of emergency will also be voted on.

Following the action items, time is reserved for members of the public to address the council. No action will be taken on matters not listed on the agenda, and the Council is not required to take any further action or to discuss the matter further. Public comment can be made or submitted remotely via email to cityclerk@co.coles.il.us. Those interested in submitting public comment should send emails prior to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and indicate in the subject line: CC: 09/01/2020, so the city clerk knows the email is public comment for the meeting.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or cebrock@eiu.edu.

Local weather

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

Sunny
High: 37°
Low: 21°Mostly Sunny
High: 44°
Low: 26°THE DAILY
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STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americans face
new COVID-19
restrictions after
Thanksgiving

Americans returning from Thanksgiving break faced strict new coronavirus measures around the country Monday as health officials brace for a disastrous worsening of the nationwide surge because of holiday gatherings over the long weekend.

Los Angeles County imposed a stay-at-home order for its 10 million residents, and Santa Clara County, in the heart of Silicon Valley, banned high school, college and professional sports and decreed a quarantine for those who have traveled more than 150 miles outside the county.

In Hawaii, the mayor of Hawaii County said trans-Pacific travelers arriving without a negative COVID-19 test must quarantine for 14 days, and even those who have tested virus-free may be randomly selected for another test upon arrival. New Jersey is suspending all youth sports.

"The red flags are flying in terms of the trajectory in our projections of growth," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom. "If these trends continue, we're going to have to take much more dramatic, arguably drastic, action."

Health experts had pleaded with Americans to stay home over Thanksgiving and not gather with anyone who didn't live with them. Nevertheless, almost 1.2 million people passed

through U.S. airports Sunday, the most since the pandemic gripped the country in March, and others took to the highways to be with family and friends.

Now they're being urged to watch for any signs of illness and get tested right away if they experience symptoms.

Health officials are urging people to remain vigilant until a vaccine becomes widely available, which is not expected to happen for at least a few months.

On Monday, Moderna Inc. said it will ask U.S. and European regulators to allow emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine as new study results confirm the shots offer strong protection. Pfizer is also seeking approval for its vaccine and hopes to begin administering shots in the U.S. in December.

The virus is blamed for over 267,000 deaths and more than 13.4 million confirmed infections in the U.S. The country on average is seeing more than 160,000 new cases per day and over 1,400 deaths — a toll on par with what the nation witnessed in mid-May, when New York City was the epicenter.

A record 90,000 people were in the hospital with the virus in the U.S. as of Sunday, pushing many medical institutions to the limit.

COVID-19 cases
drop again, experts
fear it won't last

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — New cases of coronavirus illness on Monday fell to 6,190, the lowest single-day total in more than a month, but deaths continued at a rapid clip and state officials fear the dip in infections is calm before a COVID-19 storm.

The drop in confirmed cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, was the third in three days, although Monday's 85 deaths sustained a late fall trend. Deaths fell below 50 on just eight

days in November.

But there's reason to worry. Millions of Americans traveled for the Thanksgiving holiday, crossing state lines and joining family and friends for indoor celebrations, a virtual guarantee of another surge in infections. Therefore, Illinois restrictions on social interaction, so-called Tier 3 mitigations, will remain in place for at least the next few weeks, Gov. J.B. said during his daily COVID-19 briefing in Chicago.

Wisconsin, Arizona
certify Biden wins
in presidential vote

Two battleground states, Wisconsin and Arizona, certified their presidential election results Monday in favor of Joe Biden, even as President Donald Trump's legal team continued to dispute the results.

Biden's victory in Wisconsin was certified following a partial recount that only added to his 20,600-vote margin over Trump, who has promised to file a lawsuit seeking to undo the results.

Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat,

signed a certificate that completed the process after the canvass report showing Biden as the winner following the recount was approved by the chairwoman of the bipartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission. Evers' signature was required by law and is typically a procedural step that receives little attention.

The action Monday now starts a five-day deadline for Trump to file a lawsuit, which he promised would come no later than Tuesday.

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About

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

Advertising

To place an advertisement or classified ad in The Daily Eastern News, call the ads office at 581-2812 or fax 581-2923. Visit our online advertisements at dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds.

Comments / Tips

Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief JJ Bullock at 581-2812.

Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.



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TODAY'S
Campus Clue

The ITC Lab

The Instructional Technology Center (ITC) provides frontline technology support for and help with your educational technology needs.

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Spacious work areas
Bulletin board supplies
Over 400 Ellison dies
Art supplies
Computers
Printers
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1440 Buzzard Hall
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Monday-Thursday
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM



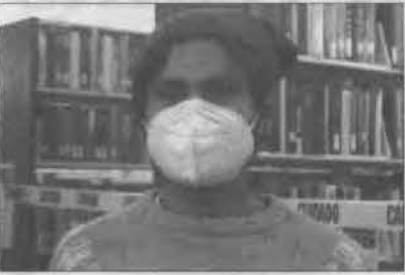
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Students share thoughts on returning to campus



"I feel alright about coming back as long as you wear a mask and stay careful you can be pretty safe... A lot of people are facing extra stress but I think everyone should find some kind of meditative practice to help calm down the stress."

-Vikram Suresh, junior

"I think it feels pretty good. I think living off campus, campus is already distant and COVID makes it more distant. ...The library is the most empty and the quietest it's ever been since working here freshman year."

-Kory Turner, senior



"I didn't expect to be as quiet as it is now... it is kind of weird not seeing people, it's kind of a ghost town."

-Tiana Merritt, freshman

"I kind of have mixed emotions. It's a little lonely but people didn't come back for safety reasons."

-Raven Gomez, freshman



PHOTOS BY KARINA DELGADO AND ZACH BERGER

» CAMPUS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thomas Dining Center will also begin featuring popular meals typically served at Taylor for the remainder of the semester as well as made to order salads.

Tower Dining Center will also remain open for the semester.

Stevenson Grill will be open every day, Monday through Friday the hours will be 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the grill will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Stevenson Deli will be open every day, lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The University Food Court will be open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Java Beanery and Bakery Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students who returned to campus are still expected to follow the following guidelines:

- social distancing,
- gathering size limitations,
- personal protective equipment (PPE) including face and mouth coverings,
- COVID-19 diagnostic testing (including before or upon arrival to campus),
- contact tracing,
- disinfection protocols,
- limitations on guests in campus living environments, and
- quarantine/isolation require-

ments (including before or upon arrival to campus)

Students should follow these guidelines in all residential spaces, including bedrooms, bathrooms, community kitchens, lounges, dining centers, courtyards, and other common spaces.

Regarding PPE students should wear a mask unless:

- you are in your individual residence hall room by yourself,
- you can maintain six-foot distancing in student suites or university-operated apartments,
- you are using a recreational cardio machine in the EIU Recreation Center,
- you are jogging on the Tom Woodall Panther Trail, or
- you are taking a walk during the evenings and weekends and you can maintain social distancing of six feet or more between walkers

Students should also be monitoring themselves for symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms the university suggests looking for are a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.

If students believe they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 they should contact the Medical Clinic for guidance.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Take advantage of upcoming COVID-19 tests

Free COVID-19 tests are going to be available on campus Wednesday, Dec. 2 and then again on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

We at the Daily Eastern News urge all students to take advantage of these opportunities, especially as COVID-19 is likely to start surging again following the Thanksgiving holiday.

For those students who have been tested on campus during previous testing dates this semester, we hope you continue and get tested again.

For those who have not been tested yet, you absolutely should. Long lines and waits have been a factor on previous testing dates, but now that there are less students on campus following the move to online classes, the lines should not be as long.

Even if they are long, a long line is a small price to pay to get tested. It is a crucial time to get tested

as well, as many people may have traveled back home for Thanksgiving Break. Getting tested Wednesday can alert you if you caught COVID-19 while at home.

If you test positive, you will also have time to complete your quarantine requirements before needing to head home for Winter Break.

If you test negative, it will give you peace of mind heading into finals week.

Getting tested on Dec. 15 can be important to, as many people will be leaving for home a few days later.

With possible vaccines on the horizon, getting tested and staying safe from COVID-19 is vitally important.

Too many people have been killed by this virus, and with a light finally appearing at the end of the tunnel, we need to prevent as many deaths as we can.

COLUMN

I'm glad to have friends' support during pandemic

Needless to say, 2020 has been a tough year for everybody. For college students at Eastern, and all over the world as a matter of fact, it has been tough adjusting to a new style of learning in such a short period of time.

There are already a million issues college students have to deal with in a regular school year. Throwing a pandemic and all the struggles that brings along on top of that has definitely taken a toll on college students. Including me.

I came into this school year excited because after a long six-ish months of being quarantined at home alongside my family with nothing to do, I could finally come back to Eastern and be my most productive self.

I could continue learning all there is to know about my major, keep writing for the Daily Eastern News, continue working with the RSO I am a part of, the Latin American Student Organization, and finally see my friends after not seeing them for months outside of a laptop screen.

As the weeks and months have gone



Kyara Morales-Rodriguez

by, however, things have gotten more and more stressful. I realized that no matter how strong of a work ethic I have or how much I organize myself or how enthusiastic I try to be, being a student during a pandemic is harder than I thought it would be.

I am constantly worried about the possibility of me or someone I care about getting sick. I have struggled to keep up with my assignments, constantly missing due dates. I have struggled with balancing my schoolwork with my other responsibilities at Eastern.

I spend half of my time very unmotivated and exhausted, and as the

weeks go by I have felt more and more overwhelmed with all of my assignments and responsibilities.

For all those reasons and more, I am so grateful to have such great friends during such a tough time. When all those stresses get too overwhelming, I know that I can count on them to make it all better. They also make all that stress worth it because being here at Eastern means I get to spend time with them.

I enjoy every second I spend with them, whether we're just having a study session, watching a movie, or playing board games. They always make me laugh and make every day memorable no matter how boring or uneventful it is.

Super cheesy, but if you are my friend and you are reading this, thank you for your kindness, support, and all the laughs we share. You guys are the greatest friends a girl could ever ask for.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez is a junior English major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.

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